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Dissertation

On

Scrophula

By Charles Hensfield.

Pennsylvania.

For a Degree of

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1829

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Scrophula from Scrofa & B. & c.

It is also called Kings-Erib, because Edward the confessor and other succeeding kings of ~~England~~^{England} pretended to cure it by the touch. It generally makes its appearance at an early period of life: usually from the third to the seventh year, very seldom after puberty, though puberty does not exempt a person from an attack, when a predisposition exists. But those which are most generally the victims of the disease, and are most susceptible of it; are children of lax fibres, Glacid habit, smooth skin, fair, and rosy cheeks, thick upper lip, eyes of a light grey or blue colour. The belly, swollen and prominent, eyelids droop unnaturally. Head large and protuberant. It is thought to be hereditary and always attacks those a family who most resemble

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the diseased parent; it is something pecu-
 liar in this disease, that it will let one
 generation pass unmolested and attack
 the succeeding with as much malignity
 as those from whom it was first entailed.
 A rachitic diathesis may also be a pre-
 disposing cause. Exciting Causes. In lati-
 tude from 45° to 60° is the climate in which
 the disease generally exists; great
 vicissitudes of weather or temperatures,
 when the inclemency of the weather
 is of long duration; sleeping in wet
 clothes, damp and crowded places, hard
 indigestible food, not having sufficient nou-
 rishment, a sedentary mode of living,
 want of sufficient clothing, bodily fatigue,
 impure water, and in short any thing
 which tends to deprave or debilitate
 the system: more particularly the

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digestive apparatus: will be found adequate to excite a predisposition to scrofula. Pathology. B. Cullen, supposed the disease to depend upon a peticular constitution of the lymphatic system. But it is now generally acceded that it depends mainly, upon a disordered condition of the whole digestive apparatus, subservient to the processes of digestion, assimilation, and nutrition. Commencing in the stomach, thence extending to the mesenteric glands, progressing to the lymphatics, which ultimately become prominently affected by inflammation. It unjoins its exacerbations with the period of the seasons, making its first appearance in the latter part of winter, continuing through the spring, and gradually subsiding in the summer, and breaking out the ensuing spring to follow the same course.

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The first appearance we have of the disease is small spherical tumours situated under the skin without pain, or unnatural heat or colour; they make their appearance behind the ears, under the chin, affecting the lymphatic glands, very rarely the salivary glands untill far advanced. The worst form is that in which the joints become affected, and we have deep excruciating pain, increased by walking; though they generally in those situations form a hard mass encircling the joints, impeding and sometimes interrupting motion entirely. At other times the disease is transferred to the internal organs producing *marasmus* &c. After some time has elapsed sometimes two or three years; at other times only a few months the tumours become more elevated and

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acquire a dark purplish hue, and small sinuses or orifices form, and matter is discharged in a puriform state encumbered by small whitish pieces resembling curd. The disease may continue thus for many years while some of the ulcers are healing others are forming and breaking in parts near the vicinity of the former, at other times on different parts of the body. The disease continuing thus for many years seemingly exhausting its powers, it sometimes heals spontaneously, and this no doubt has given rise to the many superstitious remedies which have been proposed for its cure at different times. When of a more malignant character the eyes become affected producing violent ophthalmia, inflammation of the adnata, and sometimes opacity of the cornea. In such cases the

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cartilages, ligaments and even the bones become affected, and the whole system is deranged with its peculiar excitement. Pthiriasis and hectic supervene and prove fatal. In dissections we find many of the viscera in a morbid state, the glands of the Mesentery are tumefied, and ulcerated. The Treatment may be divided into two stages 1st When we have no tumours, but when we have evidence of a scrofulous disposition. 2nd When tumours, or ulcers, make their appearance, and which require a particular treatment. The first stage requires only preventative means, and may be afforded by removing the patient from the cause, clothing being warm and comfortable: exercise being taken every day, though not sufficient to fatigue themselves, the alimentary canal may be evacuated, by Emetics, though

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Cathartics are preferred. they may be given every 3 or 4 days: we generally find the stools of a clayey colour; and hence Calomel alone, or combined with Rhubarb, followed by vegetable bitters. Chalybeates, and likewise the warm, and cold bath. The second stage must be treated both general, and local. Bleeding is sometimes demanded by the state of the tumours, which are always more painful; Mercury may be used as an alterative, in $\frac{1}{4}$ grain doses two or three times a day, for several weeks & is found to be very efficacious, but when it is given so as to salivate it is evidently pernicious. Medicines of the narcotic tribe have been used and many with success among which are the Cicuta, Datura stramonium, Hyocyamus & Hemlock.

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has been used both internally and externally for discussing obstinate tumours. The expressed juice of the *teuflago*, or a decoction of the dried leaves has been used, and tis said with very good effect. When tumours first make their appearance we should endeavour to discuss them, and thus save the patient much unnecessary pain. The applications used for this purpose are cold applications, Mercurial frictions, Blisters; and a very good application is made by mixing Tartar Emetic, with sweet oil or Hogs lard; but these should all be tried in the incipient stage, before they swell and become large, and a tendency to suppuration is seen. When they have advanced thus far we should assist in their maturation in

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by washing the parts with salt water or spirits, by which it is known it cannot be done by poultices &c. they may be opened by a lancet when thus brought to a point. Sometimes the disease is connected with debility, emaciation &c. At this junction alkalis have been used but they have shared the fate of most other remedies. Opium has been used at this stage when much irritability exists. As likewise Sarsaparilla Mezeron, Lisbon diet drink &c. When ulcers have formed, mild applications may be used, as cold water, salt and water, lead water with the addition of a little laudanum, when of a more malignant character more stimulating applications may be used a solution of Zinc in proportion of

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ʒj to ʒij of water, acid precipitate, blue
 vitriol, diluted acids, ointments. (I tried
 in one case the Argentum Nitratum
 both internally and externally, after
 many other things had failed; and
 with decided benefit; internally I
 commenced with ʒj grain doses, increasing,
 gradually to 5 grains, and externally, to
 the ulcers in solution, formed by taking
 two grains of Nitrate Silver, and one ounce
 of water with the addition of a little
 brandy, this patient had been using
 Swedims Panacea for a long time but
 without any benefit whatever.)

Dr Chapman has used the nitric
 acid with unequivocal success, in doses
 of ʒj to ʒij daily; He relates the case
 of a lady treated in this manner, and
 at the same time, washing the ulcer

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